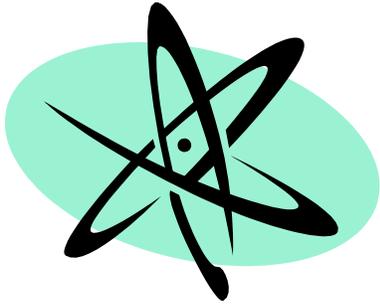


Nuclear 2: Radioactive Decay



Did you know that much of the heat given off by the Earth comes from radioactive decay? It's true! Scientists have found that about 50% of the Earth's heat comes from decay of atoms like thorium and uranium. Without radioactive decay, life would be very difficult on our planet.

In Nuclear 2, you'll learn about one of the properties of radioactive decay called "half life" by doing an experiment we call the "Skittles Test". See how long it takes to make half of the Skittles disappear without eating them!

Even though you can't see radioactive atoms, you'll have a chance to see atoms decay right before your eyes in boxes called cloud chambers. Watch for the vapor trails when an atom decays! [To see thorite in a cloud chamber-click here](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIDYH5Q6NGY&feature=related)
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIDYH5Q6NGY&feature=related>)



If you tickle something, it gets excited, and you'll get to tickle atoms to make them excited and glow! Tell us what colors you see, and why you think some colors are different!